IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Marc ALAIA et al.)
)
Application No.: 09/311,557) Group Art Unit: 2761
)
Filed: May 14, 1999) Examiner: Unassigned
)
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR)
CONTROLLING THE INITIATION AND)
DURATION OF OVERTIME)
INTERVALS IN ELECTRONIC)
AUCTIONS (As Amended))

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as

follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 89-138 as follows:

--89. A computer program product for enabling a processor in a computer system to

conduct a business-to-business online auction for custom industrial products or materials

between a buyer and a plurality of potential sellers, said computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in

said medium for causing an application program to execute on the computer system, said

computer readable program code means comprising:

a first computer readable program code means for enabling the computer system to offer